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The CIA Issue

The appointment of Admiral William F. Raborn Jr. to succeed John McCone as director of the Central Intelligence Agency has caused another "shake up" rumor around the nation's capital.

Washington "insiders" are quick to note the last two CIA administrators were both civilians, rather than military men. Moreover, while a search for a successor to McCone had been going on for some time, Raborn's name had not figured in the speculation.

Some sources point to other surprise appointments when noting President Johnson demands all departments under him be run his way. They add the professionalism and top-priority secrecy of the super-sleuth agency have, from time to time, irritated the White House.

Most unpopular is the agency's occasional practice of ignoring presidential suggestions and ideas.

An order went out, "insiders" say, to find a director who would run the CIA properly, yet transmit the President's orders into effective action.

While it is understandable that the President wants his own man in the post, there also seems to be some speculation that he wants to dictate its strategies.

If he, indeed, has this desire, it is unwise; for the delicate operations of the CIA require a special skill, a skill not acquired through a Congressional background.